

## FOR MORE MONEY

CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATION  
IS NOT NEARLY ENOUGH

WILL ASK FOR \$500,000 SCHOOL FUND

Superintendent Benedict of Indian Territory Schools Will Ask for Additional Appropriation—Great Eager-  
ness for Education.

MUSKOGEE: "The inadequacy of the \$100,000 appropriated last year for support of schools for non-citizen children in Indian Territory is becoming more apparent every day," said J. D. Benedict, superintendent of schools in Indian Territory yesterday. "I shall ask congress to appropriate at least \$500,000 for the school work of next year and I believe that we can find good use for every dollar of it."

Scores of letters and petitions from people importuning for the establishment of schools in their neighborhood come into the superintendent's office every week. Some of them are pathetic in their pleadings. Mr. Benedict by the very limitations of his funds is compelled to turn a deaf ear to most of these communications. Many communications do not give up the fight for schools until they have sent repeated letters and finally made a personal call upon the superintendent. Mr. Benedict explains to them that he has already established as many schools as can be supported with the limited appropriation and promises them that he will try to do something for them next year.

Some communities in their deep anxiety for the privileges of education appeal to the secretary of the interior. The following is a letter of that nature written by a citizen of Grayson, who evidently could profit by a little schooling himself:

"Mr. Secretary of the Interior:

"Sir, I wish to ask you for a free school here in the town of Grayson I. T. and we wish a free school. We have 100 to 50 students all ready for schooling. We had a private school and because every body would not pay up the school stopped so if you can give us a free school let us have from you."

This is only one of a large number of letters received from people evidently ignorant themselves, but very anxious that their children should not grow up in ignorance.

Superintendent Benedict received a letter from Twin Mounds, where a school has already been established by government appropriation, pleading for an assistant teacher. The letter states that there are 100 scholars in the school and fifty more of school age who would like to attend. The teacher cannot give proper attention to the large number of pupils already under her care and is discouraged. The writer suggests that he will be willing to board a teacher free and to guarantee her one month's salary if the government will send one and pay for the other three months.

Some people get the idea that the \$100,000 is to be distributed in cash like an Indian payment and they write inquiring what has become of their share of the money. One man informed Mr. Benedict that if his community was not given its share of the \$100,000 he would bring an injunction suit against the whole school system in Indian Territory.

Many incorporated towns in the territory find themselves without schools for their children. The value of their property is not sufficient to bring in money enough to sustain a school. The money from the appropriation cannot be given to incorporated towns. These communities are left in the cold. Some of them have offered to abandon their incorporations if the government will furnish them schools.

## TERRIFIC MINE EXPLOSION

Number of Dead May Reach Sixty—  
Resembled a Volcanic Eruption

TRINIDAD, COL.: The most terrific explosion in the history of coal mining in Colorado occurred at mine No. 3 of the Rocky Mountain Fuel and Iron company at Teroio, forty miles due west of Trinidad, at 1:30 o'clock Friday afternoon. The number of dead is variously placed at between thirty and sixty men. The number reported as having gone into the mine was seventeen miners and four companions. Many more miners are known to have gone into the mine, and the exact number dead may never be known, as the mine is burning, and in all likelihood the bodies will be cremated. A large number of mine officials left here as soon as word of the accident was received. Company surgeons were picked up all along the line, as well as all other available physicians. F. J. Foreman, United States stock inspector, was at Teroio when the explosion occurred. He returned here and gave the following account of the affair:

"I was standing not more than 300 yards from the mouth of the tunnel when the explosion occurred. The explosion was preceded by a low rumbling sound, resembling an earthquake, which made the earth tremble and startled the whole camp."

"When I looked toward the mine and out of the mouth of the tunnel and two air shafts came a great volume of smoke and dust, which continued for nearly a minute. Out of the two shafts, each of which were seven feet in diameter, timbers that were fully from two to three feet in diameter shot into the air and broke into splinters. Rocks were thrown over the camp for a distance of a quarter of a mile. In fact it rained rocks, broken timbers and all kinds of debris for fully a minute, and many people were injured by being struck with these missiles."

"Immediately after the explosion, which was for all the world like a volcanic eruption, caused the wildest excitement. Women, men and children rushed to the mouth of the tunnel, and women whose husbands were in the mines had to be taken away to prevent their being killed by the deadly fumes coming from the mouth of the tunnel."

The mine in which the accident occurred employs eighty men, and it is believed that at least sixty men were in the mine at the time of the explosion.

News of the accident brought assistance from the adjacent camps, and hundreds of men set to work in an effort to get into the mine. Poisonous fumes overcome the rescuers frequently, but their places were taken by others, ready to risk their lives. It is not thought to be probable that any one in the mine can escape death, if they are not dead already.

Nearly all the miners employed are Slavs. The mine is a new one, opened only a year ago, and extended two thousand feet into the hill. The explosion is supposed to have been caused by dust.

Only one body has been found, that of T. Duran, a driver, who was just entering the tunnel when the explosion occurred. He was torn and buried almost beyond recognition. All mines within a radius of 200 miles have been shut down, and the miners are on their way to assist in the rescue of the bodies.

## Hearing on Allotment Cases

MUSKOGEE: Beginning January 2 the Dawes commission will hear contest cases at various points most convenient to the persons interested. There are 752 cases in the Cherokee nation arising from disputes over allotments, besides a number of contests in other nations. The places and dates of hearings are: Claremore, January 2-14; Vinita, January 16-21; Dawey, January 23-28.

## SUES THE KATY

CHOCTAW NATION SEEKS TO RECOVER ON RIGHT OF WAY

ROAD CLAIMS A GRANT BY CONGRESS

Choctaws Want to Fare as Well as the  
Creeks—Involves One Hundred and  
Thirty Miles of Road and Terminals  
—Tams Bixby a Witness

ATOKA: A case of wide interest to the Choctaw nation has been instituted in the court of the central district. It is a suit filed by that nation against the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad company for the value of the right of way of that road through the nation, together with all ground used for stations and terminals.

The Choctaw nation has never received pay for the land used by the M. K. & T. for this right of way and station grounds, and seeks to force a settlement. The railroad company will contest the suit on the ground that it was given a grant by the United States government. But the Creek nation got a settlement with the M. K. & T., and now the Choctaws want to know why they have never been paid. The M. K. & T. has 130 miles of right of way running through the Choctaw nation which is involved, as is the land used for station purposes.

The action was brought about because of the failure of the Dawes commission to allot the lands that are thus occupied by the railroad company. None of the land claimed by the railroad people has ever been allotted, and it is understood that no allottee has ever asked it so, though law which says such right of way shall become the property of the railway company instead of the Choctaw nation. It is on this allotment point that the fight is to be made. The chairman of the Dawes commission has been summoned to appear in court as a witness, and is expected to produce all the official correspondence that has ever passed relative to the allotting of lands used by the railroad company.

Of recent years the M. K. & T. has straightened out a lot of track, and thus abandoned the old right of way, but the company still claims title to it. All right of way acquired since 1899 has been by condemnation, and there is question of title about this. The suit involves the title to all station grounds and right of way claimed by the railway company which was not acquired by condemnation.

## Meeting of Chiefs Called Off

MUSKOGEE: The meeting of the chiefs of the five civilized tribes and the Osage nation, which was called for this place, was not held because some of the chiefs could not attend. They wrote letters explaining their absence. The purpose of the proposed meeting was to address the president of the United States and urge that he recommend separate statehood for Indian Territory in his message to congress this winter. The same result will be accomplished, however, as such a petition will be written and signed by all the chiefs and forwarded to the president.

## Fire Destroys a Camping Outfit

LAWTON: While camping in the big pasture a party of prominent Walter citizens suffered the loss of their camping outfit by fire, and barely saved the entire pasture from the ravages of the flames. Nothing was left of their outfit except the pack and team. The flames spread to the pasture grass, and it was with much difficulty that the fire was put out.

## FIRE AT FORT SILL.

Stables and Ammunition Burned—  
—Loss About \$30,000

LAWTON: Fire originated in one of the stables at Fort Sill and in an hour five stables and nearly everything contained in them, a large storage house and some smaller storage houses in the different stables, containing saddles, blankets, ammunition and other things belonging to troops A, B and D, were destroyed. The total loss is estimated at \$30,000. The losses are as follows:

Ammunition, 120,000 rounds, consisting of loaded shells, carbines and six shooters, \$6,000; five stables, \$2,000 each, \$10,000; saddles, blankets etc., \$6,000; other losses, about \$5,000; hay and grain, \$4,000.

The fire was observed while the troops were at dinner and had gained such headway that it enveloped nearly the entire covering of the stables of Troop D, in whose stables it is believed to have originated. All of the horses were removed at once. Only a small part of the belongings of the troops was saved.

No cause can be assigned for the fire and the exact location of the ignition cannot be established. Inasmuch as the men were all at dinner and no one was about the stables, it will probably be impossible to learn the cause. Only the walls of the burned stables are left standing.

## THE SHEPARD AFFAIR

President Demands Assailants Be  
Punished.

VINITA: As a result of the murderous assault committed about thirty days ago upon Colonel Shepard of Buffalo, N. Y., of the Choctaw townsites committee of Indian Territory at Hartshorne, accidentally coming to the knowledge of President Roosevelt, instructions have been received by the Indian Territory officials, directing them to immediately search out and punish the perpetrators of the crime. The interior department has been advised that the United States marshal for Indian Territory has detailed men to protect the members of the Choctaw townsites commission in the performance of their duties. This action is taken at the instance of the department of justice, whose attention was called by the interior department to the recent assault on Colonel Shepard of New York.

## FIRE AT RAVIA

Main Business Portion of Town  
Burned—Loss \$25,000

RAVIA: The main business portion of this place was burned Sunday night. The losses were as follows: W. H. Putnam, drugs, stock worth \$2,000 to \$2,500, insurance \$1,000; only a very small portion of goods and show cases were saved. U. A. Lowmore, general merchandise and furniture, stock valued at \$8,000, no insurance; everything, including books, notes and accounts, a total loss. Jake Wilson, general merchandise, loss of stock estimated at \$15,000; insurance \$3,000; saved his hardware and some implements carried in a separate building, and his account books. Banker James at Roff lost two brick buildings.

The fire started in Lowmore or Wilson's store, it is not known which, but was under such headway when discovered that all efforts to stop it were useless.

## Stocking Reservoir With Fish

SOUTH McALESTER: A member of the United States Fish commission was in the city last week for the purpose of stocking the city's reservoir with fish. About four hundred black bass and crappie were placed in the reservoir. The fish were about eight inches long. Next spring some German uarp and rainbow trout will be added.